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BEIJING INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL STRATEGIC STUDIES ESTABLISHED (U)

(U) The Beijing Institute for International Studies was established in June 1979 to conduct academic research on problems of international strategy. Composed of active and retired military men and civilian scholars, the Institute will be principally concerned with questions relating to national security and world peace. It will also seek to establish friendly relations with similar foreign institutes through visits and exchange assignments for its staff members.

Apparently, the primary mission of the Institute is to gain insights into the USSR's military strategy and related Soviet armed forces developments. This mission will conform with Beijing's view that the USSR is the main threat to world peace and to China's national security. In discussions with Western visitors, members of the Institute focused their attention on changes that could be expected in Soviet military strategy as a result of leadership changes in the nation and on fluctuations in the US-Soviet military balance.

The current chairman is Wu Xiuquan, a deputy chief of the Peoples Liberation Army General Staff. Several considerations most likely contributed to Wu Xiuquan's appointment as Chairman of the Institute. Among these are his expertise in both military and civil affairs, his responsibilities as the probable senior military intelligence officer, and his concurrent position as head of China's Armymen's Association. This Association is a division under the General Staff Department with an apparent principal function of intelligence gathering. Special emphasis has been placed on Soviet plans and activities in Asia. The Institute will in all probability also collect intelligence, with special attention focused on Soviet matters. (Classified by multiple sources; review on 22 Aug 99)

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: OCT 2005

14 Dec 79

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